These include 1 cultural programes, facilitaion of international tourists at various entry paints, press publicity, distribution of leterature, discounted tours, etc.

(b) No specific funds were earmarked for World Tourism Day. However, Department of Tourism's field offices undertook activities for the occasion for which expenditure was incurred from the overall Tourism Promotion Budget.

Aircraft grounded for servicing and repairs during agitation by maintenance engineers

2515. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what steps were taken to keep the Indian Airlines fleet going during the agitation of maintains; engineers in September, October, 1991; and

(b) what is the number of different types of aircraft which were grounded or sent to hangars for servicing and repairs and for what period ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) Aircraft Maintenance Engineers of Indian Airlines had resorted to a "go slow" in September and October, 1991. The operations were maintained by utilising, where necessary, the services of Executive Engineers.

(b) As on 15-10-1991 there were 15 aircraft on ground for servicing and repairs for period ranging between one day and 453 days.

Articles available at duty free shops

2516. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question 254 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th December, 1991 and state :

(a) what goods are available at the duty free shops at major airports in the country;

(b) whether persons other than passegers can buy articles from these duty free shops ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) The duty freeshaps operated by ITDC at the international airports of Delhi, Bombay, Culcutta Madras and Thiruvananthapuram sell various imported items like liquor cigarettes, cigars, tobacco and pipes, cigarette lighters, watches, perfumes, cameras and films, electronic goods, home appliances, toys and gifts, luggage ware, food items, confectionery etc, and some selected Indian goods, including handicrafts,.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) The items in the duty free shops are sold in foreign exchange. Therefore, only bonafide international passengers departing/arriving /transiting on inter national flights are allowed to buy goods from these duty free shops.

देश में उत्पादित राख-युक्त कोयला

2517. डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन :
श्री रणजीत सिंह :

क्या कोयला मंत्री 25-11-1991 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 270 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कोयला उद्योग का राष्ट्रीयकरण 1972 में किया गया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस समय देश में 17 प्रतिशत राख और इससे कम प्रतिशत राख युक्त कोयले की कितनी मात्रा का उत्पादन किया जाता था ; और

(ग) वर्ष 1990-91 में देश में 17 प्रतिशत और इससे कम राख-युक्त कोयले का कितना उत्पादन हुआ है ?

कोयला मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री एस० बी० नयमेगौडा) : (क) कोककर कोयला (राष्ट्रीयकरण) अधिनियम, 1972 को वर्ष 1972 में पास किया गया था । कोयला खान (राष्ट्रीयकरण) अधिनियम, 1973 को वर्ष 1973 में पास किया गया था ।

(ख) और (ग) 1971-72 में उत्पादित कोयले की कुल मात्रा 72.06 मिलियन टन थी, जिसमें से 11.48 मिलियन टन कोयले में राख की मात्रा 17% से कम थी । 1990-91 में

उत्पादित कोयले की कुल मात्रा 211.62 मिलियन टन थी, जिसमें से 61.57 मिलियन टन कोयले में राख की मात्रा 17% से कम थी ।

Shifting of Head Quarter of SCCL

2518. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is any proposal under Government consideration to shift the Headquarter of S.C.C.L. in the State of Orissa ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal is likely to meaterialise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) Bilaspur. In that case there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to shift the headquarters of SECL. However, creation of a separate coal company for Talcher, IB valley and mand-Raigarh coalfields with headquaters in Orissa is under consideration. If the reference is to Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) then, it is a company under the administrative control of Government of Andhra Pradesh and according to available information there is no proposal to shift its Hqrs.

Cost and sale price of coal

2519. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) What is the cost of production of coal indifferent sectors in the country;

(b) What is its sale price per metric tonne;

(c) Whether Government are importing certain varieties of coal/coke ; and

(d) if so, the price thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) According to information made available by coal companies, avarage cost of production of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited coal were Rs. 277.18 and Rs. 401.05 per tonnes respectively in 1990-91.

(b) The avarage pit-head prices of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited coal are Rs. 249.00 and Rs. 297.00 respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir, The import of cooking coal in public sector is mostly resorted to by Steel Authority of India Limited, and Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant.

(d) The information is being collected, and to the extent avialable will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shifting to open cast mining system

2520. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Asansol Raniganj Coal Belt, mining activities are gradually shifting to open-cast mining system in preference to the traditional mining;

(b) whether excavation of coal is being abandoned in serveral collieries in the belt, several of which hold considerable reserve of quality coal beneath its existing bottoms;

(c) whether the coal reserve of the country, including its quality categorisation has been reviewed, keeping in view the projected demand of the existing as well as future thermal power plant; and

(d) if so, how the quality and estimated quantity of our coal reserve compares with those of the other major coal producing countries in the world?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (d) The choice of mining method (Underground and Opencast) in any particular coal deposit is primarily determine by Techno-Economic and Geo-mining factors. It has been reported by ECL that in Asansol-Raniganj coal belt higher preference is given to traditional UG mining system. However share of opencast production in the total production has comparatively increased over the years on account of decline in UG production due to exhaustion of mineable reserves in some existing mines and other factors.

Abandoning extraction of coal leaving behind mineable reserves in the working seams is not adopted in collieries unless warranted by safety grounds and economic considerations.

The coal reserve of the country including its quality categorisation are under constant